



## **Thomas Fairchild, Ph.D.**

### **1. What do you consider the most important issue facing St. Andrew Parish and how do you recommend addressing it?**

The mission of our parish is "United in our belief in Jesus Christ and His call to love and serve, we are dedicated to live out His word through education of family, evangelization and celebration of the sacraments." In order for our parish to faithfully execute our mission we must have a visionary multi-year strategic plan. This plan must address each of our ministries and organizations that make up the fabric of our parish. The plan should maximize our spiritual, human, financial, and physical resources to meet the growing needs of our diverse parish members. The plan should be supported by yearly initiatives that engage the parish community.

### **2. What do you like best about St. Andrew Parish and why?**

The enjoyment that I receive from the St. Andrew parish comes from the generous, friendly and inclusive culture that has been established by the Franciscan Friars. This culture has helped create a family like particularly like the fact that we have a school with quality faculty, staff and volunteers that provide a solid education based on Catholic principles. An additional plus of our parish that I value is the cultural diversity of our parishioners that helps enrich our spiritual lives and parish community.



### **3. What gifts would you bring to the Pastoral Council?**

The gifts I would bring to the Pastoral Council are an appreciation of teamwork, consensus building, seeing the big picture and thinking outside the box. I believe that these skills are critical in assisting the pastor in developing a vision that will contribute to the long-term viability of the parish and plan for the changing needs of our parishioners.

### **4. Additional Information:**

My wife and I have been members of Saint Andrew's for 18 years. I am originally from Detroit, Michigan and my wife from Philadelphia, PA where we both attended Catholic schools. We believe in the powerful influence that a Catholic Education had on our lives and have been active supporters of our school. I am employed at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) and have responsibility for strategic planning and performance improvement. My leadership positions on non-profit and for profit boards has given me insight into the need to respect the viewpoints of all board members and the responsibility to the entire organization and not any one particular constituency.